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DD/P 6-1622

18 April 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Division and Staff Chiefs

SUBJECT : Clandestine Services Participation  
in the Implementation of the CIA  
Language Program,

1. The DDCI approved a memorandum on 1 February 1966 which sets forth certain policy statements relative to strengthening the Agency's Foreign Language Program. This policy will be published shortly as part of the [REDACTED] series.

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2. One of the basic assumptions of the Agency's Foreign Language policy is that the Agency's task in improving its language proficiency posture is a long range one. The necessary mechanism for systematically utilizing our available language skills in proper assignments and for recruiting and training to meet our deficits does not currently exist. In order to establish proper mechanisms an information gathering phase of considerable magnitude is necessary.

3. The CS is currently in the process of implementing the language proficiency testing requirement of the DDCI's memorandum. This will provide information on our current proficiency level.

4. The second requirement to which the Clandestine Services must address itself is a survey of CS needs for linguistic skills. A survey which does not honestly or realistically reflect our best estimate of our needs can only result in a continuation of our current problems. An estimate of our overall requirements which is tailored to current capabilities promises no improvement by 1970, or ever. On the other hand, an estimate which reflects our genuine current needs without respect to our present capabilities can, if implemented over a period of several years, result in a marked improvement in the Clandestine Service's efficiency.

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5. Bearing in mind that the estimates which you give can be revised as our knowledge grows and that you are not expected to solve single-handedly the problems posed by these estimates, I ask that you give this survey your most earnest consideration in order that the CS may have your informed opinion of the linguistic skills which it requires to do its job in the best way possible.

6. I recognize that the impending reorganization of several of the divisions may impose certain problems for those Division Chiefs who are acquiring new territory. For the purpose of this exercise, the EE Division need not indicate its linguistic needs. It should, however, work closely with the NE, WE and SR Divisions in giving them the benefit of its best judgement and experience in defining language requirements for those areas which are about to be transferred.

7. You will shortly receive from the DDP Training Officer certain materials and instructions to aid you in conducting your part of the survey. Since the DDCI requires that the survey be completed by 1 July 1966, I request that you undertake this study at your earliest convenience.

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Desmond Fitzgerald  
Deputy Director for Plans

Distribution:

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